

The Presbyterian Church, Simcoe, Ontario. 1793 - 1906.



THE purpose of this sketch is to give a brief history of the Presbyterian Congregation in Simcoe, Ontario. Although the oldest congregation in the denomination, west of Glengarry, the story of its career has never been written, and its earlier history, so full of interest, is known to few. Such a retrospect may well inspire us with gratitude to God, with zeal for the Church, with veneration for our fathers, and with hope and courage for the future. The story is of interest beyond the present congregation in Simcoe; for, as will be seen, the work of the pioneer pastors extended over the surrounding country and led to the founding of churches at Port Dover, Vittoria, Lynedoch, Carholme, Delhi, Windham Centre, and Jarvis; and far and near there are many who keep in affectionate remembrance their earlier connection with this congregation. Our sources of information are:

Firstly, Congregational Records, which, however, date no farther back than 1848, earlier records being lost.

Secondly, An autobiography of the first pastor, written twenty-one years after his arrival here. This biography has recently been lost, but we have a brief newspaper statement of some of its contents, written by one who had the original before him when writing.

Thirdly, Gregg's History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Fourthly, Letters, journals, and papers by persons connected with the work.